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News Release

Fort Simpson to Host 3rd set of NWT Games

Yellowknife (January 19, 2007) – Fort Simpson is gearing up to host the 2007 NWT Winter Games next month. Three hundred athletes and coaches will descend upon the community on February 15th and over the next 2 ½ days will participate in skill development sessions for badminton, basketball, broomball, cross country skiing, dene games, snowboarding and speed skating. Kids will experience the "athletes' village" format similar to the Arctic Winter Games and Canada Games where everyone is housed together in the schools and they eat their meals in a cafeteria style setting. These Games will have participants from 30 communities; which is up from the previous NWT Games which had 28 communities participate.

The two previous NWT Games were successful in showcasing a variety of sports that the athletes may not have participated in before. As a result of these Games, it is hoped that the youth will make healthy lifestyle choices, thereby improving the overall health status of the communities in the future.

Andrew Hillaby, member of the Fort Simpson Organizing Committee, says "we are very pleased with how things are progressing. The Territorial Sport Organizations, Sport North staff and MACA staff have been fantastic getting a lot of work done behind the scenes. The volunteers in Fort Simpson are busy preparing the menus, accommodations, local transportation and sport facilities. The support from local companies, larger corporations and local politicians has been fantastic. We are on schedule and very excited for the event to begin."

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